

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 367
By Ford J

A RESOLUTION to recognize the creation and development of
the Fire Museum of Memphis.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those
exemplary new attractions that display the rich history and progress of the State of Tennessee;
and

WHEREAS, the development of the Fire Museum of Memphis is one such outstanding
new attraction; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Fire Museum of Memphis is to be nationally recognized
as the finest Fire Museum in the country, and thereby to serve as a significant contributor to the
economic well-being of Memphis, to reduce the loss of lives and property by increasing fire
safety awareness, and to be a catalyst to downtown redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, in 1879 Memphis created a Board of Fire and Police Commissioners to
provide specialized attention to safety devices such as fire alarm boxes and fire hydrants; and

WHEREAS, currently, there are approximately 1,500 fire service personnel with 48 fire
stations in Memphis under the leadership of Director Charles Smith; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Museum of Memphis will be the newest accomplishment as it
brings the history of firefighting and fire safety education to the people of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Museum will have displays drawn from hundreds of artifacts dating
back to the early 1900s, including fire engines, firefighting tools and equipment, patches,

badges, helmets and uniforms, as well as photographs, Memphis Fire Department memorabilia, videos of the history of fires and a 100-volume library of fire service history and museum reference material; and

WHEREAS, the period artifacts will be interpreted in part through the use of interactive audio-visual programs; and

WHEREAS, the museum will include an educational center for young people, safety lessons, audio-visual fire experience, changing exhibits, memorials to firemen, a gift shop and space for special events; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Museum is a logical addition to the growing tourist area of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, the museum's exhibits are sure to draw national attention; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend the creation and development of the Fire Museum of Memphis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.